

# What are the six priorities of marriage?

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Worship, relationship, finances, communication, celebration, and forgiveness comprise the priorities of marriage, participants in a Southern Baptist marriage enrichment conference were told.

Clyde Besson, director of Christian Growth Ministries of Tyler, Texas, illustrated the conference theme, "The Priorities of Marriage," at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Besson's session was one of eight such conferences sponsored nationwide this fall by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

"What are the priorities of marriage?" Besson asked his audience of

about 550 couples.

"My mind always begins with worship," he answered. "First is personal worship. My most honest prayer time is when I picture Jesus there talking with me."

"Next is family worship, where you and your mate and your family share together what God is doing in your lives. Then comes corporate worship, where we gather together in church — like a halftime lockerroom experience of a ball team, where the Coach (God) points out what we've been doing right and wrong."

The second priority is one of relationship, Besson said, focusing primarily on the relationship between spouses.

"Don't you ever get so busy at

By Marv Knox

church that you forget your mate," he warned. "Don't let your job ever be so important you can't say no to your boss to say yes to your mate."

"Wives, don't marry the children. Put your husband first, and let the children flow from that."

Finances are the third priority, he said, noting: "Most of us in America today allow our finances to control us because we've forgot a simple Bible verse — 'The borrower is a slave to the lender.' Most of us do not make too little money; we just use it poorly."

The fourth priority is communication, Besson reported. Barriers to communication are a lack of time and a lack of security in Jesus Christ, he added.

"You'll never have more time than you have today," he insisted. "You must choose to create time for your mate."

Concerning security, he added: "You must share through the Holy Spirit and trust one another, developing self-esteem through faith in Christ. If you're going to resolve your problems, you must know who you are in the Lord Jesus Christ and share with one another."

Celebration is the fifth priority, Besson said. He lamented: "There's a mindset in America where we forget the good things and zero in on the bad things. We start complaining and forget the good times."

As antidotes to this problem, he suggested couples affirm each other ver-

bally; "get out of the rut" by doing things that are "a little unusual," such as trying new restaurants or taking trips together; and "celebrate physically," realizing "the sexual relationship is a celebration of the one-flesh principle" of the Bible.

Finally, forgiveness is the sixth priority of marriage, Besson noted: "For a marriage to grow and be real, forgiveness must be ever present, for you never will be perfect. The secret is not perfection but forgiveness."

That involves accepting and understanding God's forgiveness, he said, explaining, "When we understand how God forgives us, we ought to forgive others."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

# The Baptist Record

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Nashville, Tennessee

## Baptists seek to help in earthquake trauma

By Jim Newton

OAKLAND, Calif. (BP) — Southern Baptists shaken by shock waves of the Oct. 17 "world series" earthquake are seeking to shore up unstable spiritual foundations in northern California.

"Baptists are praying that the earthquake will wake Californians up to their need for God," said Larry Fisher, director of missions for East Bay Baptist Association here.

During the association's annual meeting just three days after the earthquake, Fisher said he hoped the earthquake also would awaken Southern Baptists in California to the challenge of ministering to people in need on a consistent, year-around basis.

Don Dent, a retired electrician who directs the emergency food distribution ministry of Calvary Baptist Church in nearby Hayward, said that thousands of hungry people in the bay area face a disaster every day of the year, but Baptists don't realize it or do much about it.

Dan Cookson, church and community ministries director for East Bay Association, challenged church members in the association to respond to the opportunities for ministry that the earthquake had provided.

Fisher said Baptists immediately

set up seven collection points for food, blankets, tents, and generators, and shipped a truckload to assist people less fortunate in the Santa Cruz and Watsonville areas south of Oakland.

Cookson pointed out the needs are not only physical, but spiritual and mental.

To help people handle the psychological stress of dealing with the trauma of the earthquake, Cookson arranged for Baptists to provide counseling services at White Oak Grove Baptist Church in Oakland. Cookson said the church and association will provide counseling not only for residents of the area but for rescue workers, police, and volunteers.

The church is located just four blocks from the mile-long Cypress section of Interstate 880 that collapsed in Oakland, killing at least 38 people.

Oakland officials, who first feared more than 250 people had been killed in the tragedy, lowered the estimated number of deaths to 85.

Greg Summi, director of the missions ministries department for the California Southern Baptist Convention in Fresno, said the disaster has opened doors for Baptists to be involved in helping non-Christians in

California grapple with spiritual questions friends and coworkers face.

Baptist relief efforts are being coordinated by Summi and by Edd Brown, director of men's ministries for the California Southern Baptist Convention.

Brown is coordinating on-site relief efforts from a command post at Park Victoria Baptist Church in Milpitas, just north of San Jose.

Baptist churches in the area escaped major damage, Brown said. The needs appear to be greatest not in the big cities of Oakland and San Francisco, but in the smaller towns of Los Gatos, Santa Cruz, Hollister, and Watsonville to the south.

In Watsonville, Arthur Road Baptist Church offered its facilities as a housing shelter for families whose homes were destroyed in the area.

Only one Southern Baptist church in the region was declared structurally unsafe and closed by building inspectors — First Baptist Church of Freedom.

Disaster relief units from state Brotherhood organizations in Alabama and Oklahoma were headed for California six days after the earthquake hit to cook and serve hot meals for victims in Watsonville and Santa Cruz.

Officials at the American Red Cross three days earlier had told the Texas Baptist Men organization its disaster relief unit was not needed, since food service did not appear to be a problem, Brown said. The Texas unit, which had reached Santa Rosa, N.M., enroute to California, returned to Texas.

Red Cross officials in the San Jose area were upset by the decision and told Brown that food might not be needed in San Francisco or Oakland, but it was needed in Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

Jim Newton writes for the Home Mission Board.



**FREEWAY DEVASTATION:** An estimated 85 persons, including the sister of a member of Palma Ceia Baptist Church in Oakland, died in the tragedy on I-880 Nimitz Freeway in Oakland. Dolores Stewart of Alameda, Calif., was one of the five commuters killed when their van plunged from the top deck of the 880 freeway. Southern Baptists have established a counseling center just four blocks away from the freeway at White Oak Grove Baptist Church. (BP) Photo by Jim Newton.

## SBC budget ends year with \$137.3 million

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program ministry budget closed its fiscal year with receipts of \$137,332,523, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee.

"This is \$2,544,980 more than was received last fiscal year, and we are grateful for the increase," he said.

The Cooperative Program supports Southern Baptist missionary, evangelistic and educational efforts

worldwide. It is funded by contributions from individual Southern Baptists, who give to their churches.

A portion of church budgets are forwarded to state conventions, and portions of their budgets are sent to national and international causes. The budget's fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

The 1988-89 Cooperative Program received \$2,544,981 more than the previous year's budget, for a 1.89 percent increase, Bennett reported.

The Cooperative Program's basic operating budget goal was \$137,610,000.

Receipts were \$227,477 below that goal, marking the first time since 1984-85 that the Cooperative Program has not reached its basic operating budget.

Bennett noted that the 1988-89 receipts were the highest in the Cooperative Program's 64-year history. But he expressed disappoint-

ment with two aspects of the budget total.

"First, our mission budget could not be met, and second, we failed to achieve one of our basic goals," he said.

Because the basic operating budget was not met, funds were not allocated to the other two portions of the Cooperative Program, he said. The capital needs budget was targeted for \$6,899,000. A second-phase operating budget was to receive \$1,091,000.

# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## A land of beauty

Last week the Baptist Record, on this page, began a discussion of the Baptists of Japan, the 100th anniversary of Baptist work there, and Mississippi Baptist involvement in the 100th anniversary through a partnership arrangement with Japanese Baptists.

We plan to continue this discussion through the next few weeks. One group of 59 Mississippians returned from Japan on Oct. 17 after two weeks overseas, and another group of 48 was due back this week.

The word that best sums up impressions of Japan in general and Tokyo in particular, where this reporter spent his entire visit to Japan during the recent evangelism campaign, is beauty. Tokyo is an intensely crowded city, but the Japanese people, who are intent on making everything count, use every available inch of their city to bring some beauty to it.

So while the crowded conditions and the agonizing pace of the traffic are the first impressions received, one has only to begin to look around as he waits in traffic to find the beauty.

And the beauty goes beyond the physical to be found in the expressions of the people. This is particularly true as it involves Japanese Baptists and music. They are a musical people. The same intensity with which they enter other areas of their lives they also expend in music. As they strive for the best in everything, so also they strive for the most beautiful in music. And the results are beautiful indeed.

Japanese as a body are very disciplined people, and this affects their music also. They pay attention to the smallest detail, and they want everything to be done just right. This makes for beautiful music.

They are a singing people. As one looks around during congregational singing, he finds that everyone is joining in. How they are able to read the characters that make up the words to the songs is a mystery, but they do, and they sing.

## Baptist Beliefs . . .

## Without excuse

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"They are without excuse." — Romans 1:20b

Paul wrote Romans while in Corinth, a city unparalleled in evil in the Roman empire. To describe one who had sunk to the lowest moral depths he was said "to Corinthianize." So it seems that in Romans 1:19-32 Paul simply described the pagan life of that city.

Man is without excuse before God because he gave him enough revelation in nature for man to acknowledge God (vv. 19-20). To say nothing about his revelation in Christ.

Man began by worshipping the true God. But he degenerated to worship idols (vv. 21-23). So that he worshipped creatures, not the Creator (v. 24). This involved illicit sex (v. 24), in-

The Japanese Baptists have just completed a new hymnal of which they are justifiably proud. Copies signed by the executive secretary of the Japan Baptist Convention, Osamu Matsukura, were presented to the editor of the Baptist Record and to Paul Harrell, leader of the first of the two waves of Mississippi participants in the 100th anniversary observation, during a visit to the Japan convention's downtown headquarters.

All of the churches have beautiful pianos, mostly Yamaha grands. The piano at the Tokiwadai Church in Tokyo is a nine-foot Yamaha with a finish so reflective that it resembles a mirror. Missionary Bill Walker said that the Japanese might overlook some problems with their buildings, but they would have first-class pianos.

The auditorium at Tokiwadai Church, however, is a beautiful structure. I had been hearing of the beauty of the Tokiwadai auditorium from the time I arrived in Japan, and it matched expectations and even exceeded them as it was visited on the final Sunday morning. The front of the auditorium behind the choir is completely covered with Italian marble, and the floor is of polished hardwood. The acoustics are wonderful.

The auditorium at Tokiwadai seats 350, and it is the second largest Baptist church in Japan. The largest, First Baptist, did not participate in the 100th anniversary observation. Tokiwadai didn't have a team. On that final Sunday morning, Baptist Record staffer Irene Martin of Harperville delivered the morning message and presented a piano concert in the afternoon.

At every church there are people who can play the fine musical instruments that are to be found. The organist at Omiya Church studied three years in Vienna. Hiroshi Kajiki, who spent so much time delivering the editor from place to place, was showing me the Yamaha grand at his church, Oizumi. He sat down and

began to play it. Kajiki was mentioned last week as the former travel agent who spent a great deal of time in Mississippi visiting college campuses. Because of his knowledge of traveling logistics, he was a tremendous asset in the partnership arrangements. He now works for the Japan Baptist mission and hopes to attend seminary and become a pastor.

The singing of the choirs is nothing short of sensational. It seems that everyone has a marvelous voice. On the first Sunday night, at the small Hino mission, a Mrs. Yasuda sang an aria from Handel's Messiah — "And He Shall Feed His Flock like a Shepherd." The meeting was held in rented space, and she had only an electric keyboard for accompaniment, but it was beautiful. She sang a part of the aria in English. Her husband is an officer in the second largest bank in the world, and the family recently spent three years in Australia.

Even the smallest of the choirs, such as the one of Chofu Church, where Mississippian Hank Lee is a member, sound twice as big as they are.

The Tokiwadai Church has released a tape of its choir in concert. Pastor Nobuyoshi Togami gave the editor one of the tapes. It is marvelous.

I had already heard a part of the tape. Pastor Seiichi Matsumura at Oizumi Church had played a part of it on his new stereo equipment. He was justifiably proud of it, for he had been a member of the choir when his father, Shuichi Matsumura, was pastor of the church.

Seiichi was a member of a large advertising firm in Tokyo until he surrendered to the ministry. His church was not on Irene Martin's itinerary, but he arranged an unscheduled concert there so that his members could hear her play. As the evening progressed into a sing-along, one of the highlights was the singing of the pastor.

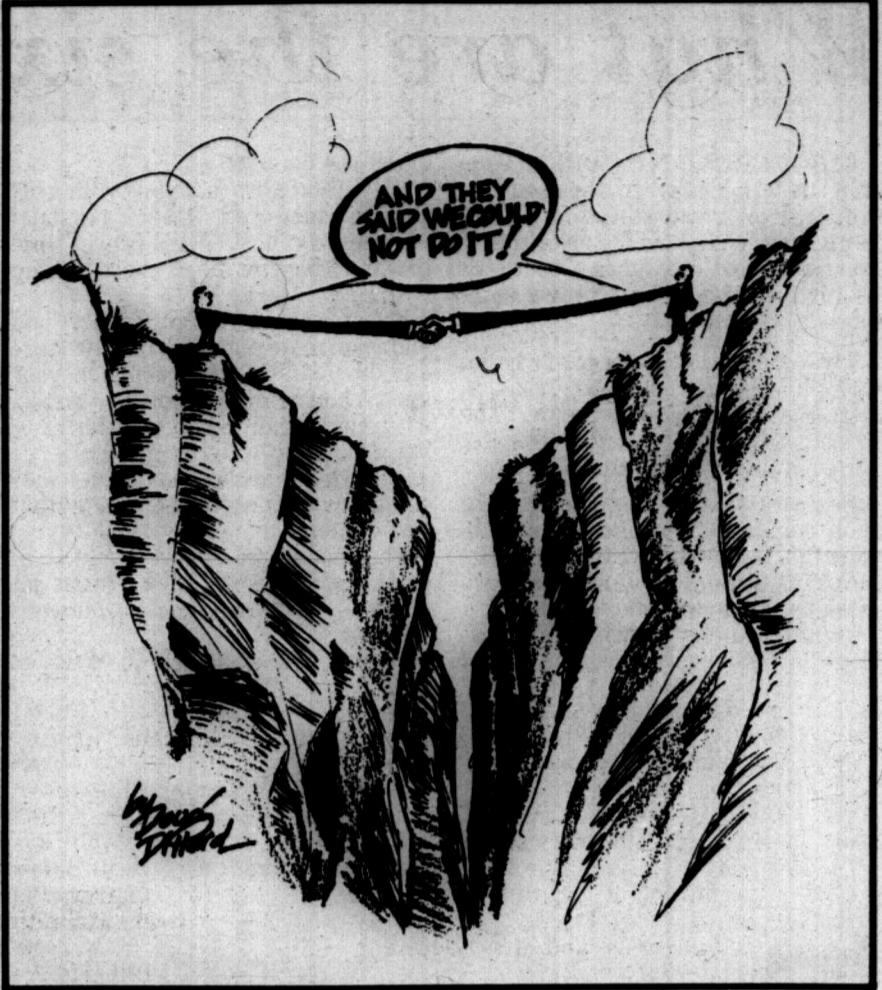
Irene sang "Amazing Grace" in Japanese. Mrs. Matsumura wrote the words in characters on the chalkboard so that the members could join in. The hymnbooks had been put away.

The elder Matsumura, long an outstanding personality in Japanese Baptist work, is now retired and in ill health. I met him in 1962 when he came to Texas as a part of a Texas arrangement with Japan Baptists called the New Life Movement.

Japan, though small and crowded, is a land of exquisite beauty. Its beauty is to be found in the surroundings for sure, but it is also to be found in its music and particularly in its people. Without exception, the Mississippians who participated in the anniversary crusade said they came home with more than they imparted through their efforts.

Japan is a long way away, and I had not been anxious to go. In fact, I struggled with the decision almost until the last week before departure. I will be forever grateful that I went. The exposure to these kind and gracious people was a blessing.

Without exception, the Japanese



## Reconciliation at Southwestern

From all accounts, the trustees' meeting at Southwestern Seminary last month was one of reconciliation. This is the word from everyone who participated in the meeting.

Without question, the harmony that was evident by the end of the meeting was providential. The early indications were that the meeting was headed for a showdown between "conservative" forces determined to fire or to censure seminary President Russell Dilday for "political" activities and "moderate" forces who were loyal to Dilday. By the end of the meeting, however, both sides were on their knees in the room; and a statement that was said to be the common position of both groups had been forged.

The statement was presented in last week's issue of the Baptist Record. It notes that both sides declare that they will not enter into any activity that could be interpreted as being intentionally political.

Trustee Chairman Ken Lilly noted that the trustees had entered into "healthy dialog" in which they acknowledged their differences and failings. Then they were able to find common ground.

The Baptist Record is not a source of all the truth that it would take to settle the differences among Southern Baptists. The word from this source for many years, however, has been that if the sides could get together for

are a giving people. The half cannot be told, but we will continue to try to tell it.

Also we will continue to try to give an adequate picture of the efforts of the Mississippi Baptists who were involved in this effort. These people are heroes. It was a difficult trip, even

conversation, many of the differences would be found to be of such nature as could be settled.

Hopefully, the Southwestern trustees' meeting is the beginning of such conversation. We all basically have similar beliefs. We have been explaining our beliefs from different perspectives. Our prayer must be that we can begin to find the common ground on which to build reconciliation.

The one disturbing factor was the action of the board as it entered into an executive session. There should not be a need for secret sessions, even to hold a prayer meeting. Baptists have a right to know what is going on.

We have the word of the trustees that a harmonious and conciliatory meeting was held, and surely it is so. How much better it would have been had the press people who were there been able to report an eyewitness account of such a meeting.

Surely those press people would have been helped and inspired by such a meeting. And had it been an open meeting, all Southern Baptists could have been inspired by the written accounts of it.

At any rate, President Russell Dilday and the trustees of Southwestern Seminary are due the commendations of all of us. May this be the dawning of the day for which we all have been longing.

though made to a beautiful land with gracious people. Evangelism has a hard road to travel in Japan. The Mississippians went to force open the door just a bit wider. Their efforts could prove to be the spark that would make Japan a very fertile land for the gospel.

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Associate Editor . . . . .  
Assistant Editor . . . . .  
Advertising Coordinator . . . . .  
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Don McGregor  
Tim Nicholas  
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Evelyn Keyes  
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# Mississippi Baptist Convention

## Celebrating The Past . . . Capturing The Future

November 13, 1989

### Suggested Order of Business

#### Monday Evening

<i>"And thou shalt remember all the way the Lord thy God let thee . . ." (Deut. 8:2)</i>		
6:30	Pre-Convention Concert	Mississippi Singing Churchmen Milfred Valentine, Director
6:45	Sounding of Gavel	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
7:00	Call to Worship	Graham Smith
Scripture (Deut. 8:6-10)	Bert Harper	
Prayer	Tommy Arinder	
7:05	Organization of Convention	
Recognition and Seating of Messengers	Jim Futral	
Report of Committee on Order of Business	Dennis Johnsey	
Welcome	Bill Gambrell	
7:15	Special Music	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
7:20	Bible Treasure	Don Wilton
7:45	Report of Committee on Committees	Wayne Burkes
Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee	Bill Baker	
Presentation of 1990 Budget	Larry Otis	
Congregational Praise	Graham Smith	
8:00	A Tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Earl Kelly	
8:05	Special Music	Bill O'Brien
Message	Bill O'Brien	
8:30	Benediction	Robert L. Dunn
9:00	Instrumental Praise	

November 14, 1989

#### Tuesday Morning

<i>"Reaching forth to those things which are before . . ." (Phil. 3:13)</i>		
8:45	Prelude	Broadmoor Baptist Church Choir, Jackson J. M. Wood, Director
9:00	Sounding of Gavel	
Call to Worship	Broadmoor Baptist Church Choir, Jackson	
Congregational Praise	J. M. Wood	
Scripture (Phil. 3:13-17)	Joseph McIntire	
Prayer	Eddie Bryant	
9:10	Bible Treasure	Don Wilton
9:35	Recognition of Visitors	Jim Futral
9:40	Business Session	
Presentation of Resolutions	Joe Tuten	
Election of Convention President		
10:05	Congregational Praise	J. M. Wood
10:10	Convention in Worship	
Special Music	Broadmoor Baptist Church Choir, Jackson	
President's Address	Jim Futral	
10:55	Congregational Praise	J. M. Wood
11:00	Report of Committees	
Nominations	Dean Register	
Time, Place and Preacher	Harvey Webb	
Report of Christian Action Commission	Paul Jones	
11:10	Report of WMU	Marjean Patterson
11:15	Business Session	
Convention Board Report	Don O'Quin	
Adoption of Budget	Larry Otis	
Miscellaneous Business		
11:45	Benediction	Terry Cutrer
Instrumental Praise		

#### Tuesday Afternoon

<i>"I go . . . be thou strong!" (I Kings 2:2)</i>		
1:45	Prelude	Crossgates Baptist Church Choir, Brandon Mike Harland, Director
1:55	Sounding of Gavel	
Call to Worship	Crossgates Baptist Church Choir, Brandon	
Congregational Praise	Mike Harland	
Scripture (I Kings 2:1-4)	Phil Walker	
Prayer	G. H. English	
2:05	Bible Treasure	Don Wilton
2:35	Election of Convention Officers	
First Vice President		
Report of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center	Kent Strum	
2:50	Report of Student Work	Jerry Merriman
Convention in Worship		
Congregational Praise	Mike Harland	
Special Music	Crossgates Baptist Church Choir	
Scripture	Dennis Johnsey	
Convention Sermon	Tommy Vinson	
3:45	Election of Officers	
Second Vice President		
Recording Secretary		
Associate Recording Secretary		
Report of Resolutions Committee	Joe Tuten	
Report of Education Commission	Bill Stewart	
Miscellaneous Business		
Benediction	Gerald M. Worzella	
Instrumental Praise		

(Continued on page 5)

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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Thursday, November 2, 1989

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## Education Commission votes funding divisions

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Education Commission last Friday approved a division of Cooperative Program funds for Christian higher education for 1990, subject to the passing next month of the Mississippi Baptist Convention budget.

The total going to the colleges in Mississippi would be \$3,248,789 for operations, \$583,223 for capital needs, and as a special line item for Clarke College, \$55,095 for deficit reduction and \$60,000 for an operations grant.

This amount for Clarke is considered an exception to the commission's continuing stance concerning satellite campuses. The statement,

passed by the commission, notes "The Education Commission, in keeping with its interpretation of the Convention's action in merging Clarke College and Mississippi College, and thereby reducing its separate entity colleges from four to three, recommends that no separate funding or special allocations be made for satellite campuses unless and until the Convention makes a decision otherwise."

This is the third year for an exception to be made.

Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles took exception to the statement noting that last year's convention voted two to one to give Clarke special funding. That special funding, in effect, negates the Commission policy of reducing Clarke's allocation of operations support three percent a year to 1991 when it will receive no separate support from the commission. Mississippi College administers Clarke's budget, but keeps Clarke's income and expenses separate.

According to the commission's funding formula, which takes into account full time equivalent (FTE) students, and the number of ministerial and graduate students, the

(Continued on page 5)

## Japan: north group reports

By Don McGregor

Seventeen teams of Mississippi Baptists returned this week from Japan, where they had been participating in the observation of the 100th anniversary of Baptist work in Japan. The actual anniversary date is Nov. 5, which is Sunday.

Last month 24 additional teams were in Japan for the same observation. The 41 teams comprised 107 people, mostly from Mississippi, who made the trip in two waves to enter into a partnership with the Japan Baptist Convention in the observance.

The team visited 44 churches in Japan. Those churches were located all the way from Fukuoka in the south to Sendai and Misawa in the north.

Total reports relating to the efforts of the Mississippians have not been compiled. For the most part, the meetings in Japan were planned to be evangelistic in nature. These included preaching services as the main thrust but also included other meetings designed for the Baptists of the two countries to be acquainted, presentations of testimonies, and music concerts.

Most musicians were members of teams. The Baptist Record's Irene Martin, however, was not attached to a team and presented 12 concerts in eight days in various locations. Most of those days were spent in Maebashi, where she was the only Southern Baptist in a city of 300,000. Baptists in 13 million population Tokyo described Maebashi as a "rural area."

There was a concert at a college in Maebashi as well as at other schools and at the Baptist church there. The concerts gave opportunity for a testimony in each case.

The Maebashi church was one of three where concerts were presented and where no team members visited. Included was the nation's second largest Baptist Church, Tokiwadai, on the last Sunday morning. The third was Omiya Church, where Akira

In the first group, two teams worked in two churches each. Clifton Perkins and his wife were at Zama Church in Kanagawa, where Harrell preached on Sunday, and at the church's mission, Higashi Rinkan.

The pastor of this church and mission is Charles Ray. Charles and Mary Elizabeth Ray are Mississippians.

Perkins had additional opportunities to speak on an air base. He was a chaplain in the air force during World War II and was in the third U.S. plane to land in Japan following the end of the war.

The other team with a double assignment was the one made up of Paul Miller, pastor of Mantee Church, and Marty Comer, a member there. They were in Okubo Church, where missionary Max Love is pastor, and the church's Hino mission.

(Continued on page 4)



Senita Webb of Midway Church, Meridian, speaks to a gathering of Shimura Church in Tokyo. The interpreter is missionary Bill Walker. Shoji Okamura, president of the Japan Baptist Convention, is pastor of the church and sits center.

# Japan: north group reports Convention-related meetings

(Continued from page 3)

Other musicians in the first group included Ann Colbert of Forest Baptist Church, who was a part of the team of pastor S. A. Adkins and Mrs. Adkins at Yurigaoka Church in Kawasaki; Senita Webb, whose husband is pastor of Midway Church, Meridian, was a part of the team of David Sellers, pastor of Collinsville Church, at Shimura Church, Tokyo; and Brian Cunningham of North Oxford Church in a team made up of North Oxford members and the pastor, William A. Vail, at Hiratuska Church, Kanagawa. Others in the Sellers team were Mrs. Sellers and Mark Sellers.

Colbert is a pianist and vocalist, Webb is a pianist, and Cunningham is a trumpet player. Other members of the North Oxford team were Mrs. Cunningham and Robert Weaver.

The first group was called the north group, and one team was sent to the far north end of the biggest island, Honshu. John Hill, Mrs. Hill, and Margaret Gipson went to the Misawa Church in Misawa. Two teams went to Sendai, not quite as far north. They were Reese Kyzar, pastor of First Church, Rolling Fork; Mrs. Kyzar; and Joe Hurst, an attorney who is a member of First Church, Jackson. Also going to Sendai were Milton Scott, pastor of North Morton Church, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Williams, members of First Church, Jackson.

They were at Sendai Kita Church and at Sendai Church.

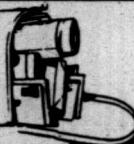
Others in the north group were as follows: Steve Griffin of Mantee Church and Yvonne Boleware of First Church, Jackson, Myogadani Church, Tokyo. Mel Gentry and Mary Lou Gentry of First Church of Pine Castle in Kissimmee, Florida, Fujima mission in Saitama. Dennis L. Johnsey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula; Mrs. Johnsey; and Delene Sander of First Church, Pascagoula, to Otsu Church, Shiga. G. Arnette McCoy, pastor of Union Church, Picayune; Mrs. McCoy; Ray Spence; and Mrs. Pat Spence, Union Church, to Mita Church, Mita. Charles Nestor, pastor of First Church, Bruce; Mrs. Nestor; Barry Nunnelee; and Willie Pearl Hastings, all of Bruce, to Fujisawa Church, Fujisawa. Don Dobson, pastor of First Church, Collins; Judith Blackledge of First Church, Laurel; and June Noland, Mantee Church, to Oizumi Church, Tokyo. Dolton Haggan, pastor of Pocahontas Church; and Ray Levos of Livonia, Mich., to Hamamatsu Church, Hamamatsu. Ollie Blevins of New Mexico to Ichikawa Church, Chiba. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ritter of Emmanuel Church, San Bernadino, Calif., to Tsudanuma Church, Chiba. Alvin Pelton, Zennie Pelton, and Steve Tondera of Huntsville, Ala., to Funabash Church, Chiba. Ricky Tanner of Midway Church, Lucedale, to

Mejirogaoka Church, Tokyo. Paul Reed and Mrs. Paul Reed of Immanuel Church, San Bernadino, Calif., to Kurigasawa Church, Chiba. Rob Cassata and Mrs. Rob Cassata of Immanuel Church, San Bernadino, Calif., to Mitaka Church, Tokyo. Pat Bufkin, pastor of Pilgrims Rest Church, Crystal Springs, to Aiko Ishida Church, Kanagawa. James A. Ruffin, pastor of Poplar Springs Church, Meridian, to Minami Senri Church, Osaka, the farthest south that any of the north group traveled. Almost as far south was the Kitayama Church in Kyoto, where Allan Moseley, pastor of Bayou View Church, Gulfport, and Mrs. Moseley were assigned.

Next week the personnel and actions of the south group will be highlighted.

## Paul Jones' mother dies

Mrs. Paul Griffin Jones (Era), Sr., mother of Paul Griffin Jones, II, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, passed away Monday evening, October 23, at home in Decatur, Georgia. A graveside service was held in Decatur at 1 p.m. on Oct. 25. She is survived by her husband and son.



## Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

### Ministering churches

From 1985 to early 1989, I was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sweetwater in Longwood, Fla. On Oct. 20, 1988, I went to the hospital for exploratory spinal surgery, and this extended to a three-month hospital stay. For weeks I was totally immobile from my waist down.

Our loving church, First Baptist Church of Sweetwater, ministered to my family and me through this most difficult time with a caring and giving spirit. I resigned as pastor effective Feb. 1, 1989, since I was unable to perform any pastoral duties. To this point and continuing until June 1 when my full disability pay took over, our church paid my full salary and benefits.

The gracious people not only gave financial support but spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical as well. Our staff at First Baptist Church of Sweetwater has truly shared in our needs. Currently my wife and I still attend the church, and the people continue to be our loving church family.

Another caring church is my home church, First Baptist Church of Eupora, Miss., that licensed me to preach and continues to encourage and love my family and me as they have through the more than 38 years of my ministry.

People in former pastorate in Mississippi and New York have been so thoughtful and caring through this time of illness and adjustment to early retirement. Calvary Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss., has been especially gracious.

Our family wants our fellow Southern Baptists to know that God

has used some very special churches to minister to us, Howard and Sarah Taylor and our two young adult children, David and Melanie. We continually thank God for churches and people who love, appreciate, and minister to their pastor and staff.

We share this not to praise men, but to praise God and with the intent of letting you know that there are still many caring, loving, churches ministering to their pastors and staffs.

Fellow pastors and staffs, I trust you'll never have the same experience I have had; but in the event that you do, it is my prayer that your church will minister to you in the same spirit of Jesus that First Church of Sweetwater has shown to us.

Howard Taylor  
315 Sweetwater Blvd., North  
Longwood, Florida 32779

Friend Howard, perhaps you helped those churches know how to care. — Editor

### Dan Thompson retires

Editor:

I write to express appreciation for the Baptist Record. For many years I have looked forward to its coming each week, and have been blessed in so many ways by its ministry. You are doing a great job as our present editor, and I deeply appreciate you and the excellent staff who serve with you.

At the end of October I will retire from the pastorate after serving almost 40 years in Mississippi in six great churches. My life has been and will continue to be blessed by the contributions of Mississippi Baptists through the years.

Gerry and I will be living in Nacogdoches, Texas, near our children and grandchildren. We shall continue to pray for the work here in our great home state. We shall always love and appreciate our friends and fellow Christians here.

Dan Thompson

Dan Thompson has retired as pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville. Among other avenues of service with Mississippi Baptists have been membership on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and its Executive Committee and membership on the BAPTIST RECORD Advisory Committee. We have appreciated his contributions and his friendship very much. — Editor

### Dealing with loneliness

Editor:

I have just finished watching an informational program on television about loneliness.

The program showed all kinds of ways the average person deals with being alone. Some found comfort using a computer dating service. Others visited parks, coffee shops, and joined support groups. Some of these people interviewed even admitted to spending most of their nights at bars.

Why were there no interviews from us — the Christian public? I'm sure there is some loneliness in the church. We could have showed our ways of solving the problem. Get involved with the youth, have home Bible study, visit and care for the elderly. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

Now there are groups such as the American Family Association that will give you things to do on a national level.

Maybe they didn't interview Christians because we have such positive ways to deal with the problem. With Christ on our side, how can we lose?

Carolyn Coleman  
Batesville

## Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas — Alumni, friends and former students from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex. are to meet in Jackson, Nov. 14.

The group will meet at noon at Calvary Church. During their meeting, they will hear a report on the seminary's growth and ministry from Cecil Roper, professor of church music at Southwestern.

Larry Smith, alumni president in Mississippi, will preside.

For more information on the luncheon or to order tickets, contact Smith at (601) 264-6337.

## N.O. alumni

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi alumni of New Orleans Theological Seminary are invited to a luncheon at noon Tuesday, Nov. 14, at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

For more information, call Jim Futral, president, (601) 366-1632.

## Mid-America

The meeting of the Mississippi chapter of the Mid-America Baptist Seminary Alumni Association will be on Nov. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Western Sizzlin — I-55 North, Jackson.

For more information, contact Johnny Hutchison — 565-2502.

## William Carey

William Carey College alumni breakfast will be held Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 a.m., in the chapel parlor of First Baptist Church, Jackson. It will be a complimentary breakfast.

## Clarke College

Clarke College alumni and friends are invited to a complimentary continental breakfast, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7:30-9 a.m., at study center east of First Baptist Church, Jackson.

## Blue Mountain

The annual Blue Mountain College alumni banquet will be held at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$5.00 per person and can be purchased at the convention from Kenny Digby, Chuck Hampton, or David Hamilton.

## Chaplains will hear Donovan

Billy D. Donovan will be the principal speaker for the annual banquet of the Mississippi Chaplains' Association on Monday evening, Nov. 13, at 5 p.m. in the Sky Room of the Baptist Building.



Donovan serves as director of institutional and business/industrial chaplaincy, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga. He is a

graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Southwestern Seminary, and the graduate seminary of Phillips University.

He has served as pastor of churches in Oklahoma and before joining the staff of the Home Mission Board Chaplaincy Division, served as administrator of religious programs, Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Oklahoma City.

Richard Brogan, consultant, Cooperative Missions Department, serves as staff to the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association. Bill Jones is president of the association.

## CLARKE COLLEGE BREAKFAST

Alumni and friends

Wednesday, Nov. 15

7:30-9:00 a.m.

Study Center East, FBC, Jackson

A special occasion for SPECIAL people.

Alumni Directors Kevin White and J. B. Costilow invite YOU.

# Celebrating the past, capturing the future

(Continued from page 3)

**November 14, 1989**

**Tuesday Evening**

"Elijah went up by a whirlwind . . . Elisha took up the mantle . . ." (II Kings 2:11, 13)

6:45	Prelude	Parkway Baptist Church Choir, Jackson
6:55	Sounding of Gavel	Parkway Baptist Church Choir
	Call to Worship	Lew King
	Congregational Praise	Bruce Atkinson
	Scripture (II Kings 2:9-15a)	Tommy Inmon
	Prayer	Don Wilton
7:05	Bible Treasure	Lew King
7:30	Congregational Praise	Bruce Cappleman
7:35	Prayer	Eugene Dobbs
	Introduction	Charlotte Causey
	Special Music	Bill Causey
8:30	Message	
	Instrumental Praise	

**November 15, 1989**

**Wednesday Morning**

"Looking unto Jesus . . ." (Heb. 12:2)

8:45	Prelude	First Baptist Church Choir, McComb
8:55	Sounding of Gavel	Randy Tompkins, Director
9:00	Call to Worship	First Baptist Church Choir, McComb
	Congregational Praise	Randy Tompkins
	Scripture (Heb. 12:1-3)	Jimmy A. Smith

## Southwestern trustees elect executive VP

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees of Southwestern Seminary here elected an executive vice president and approved a plan allowing the school to proceed with construction of a new music library.

Scotty Gray, professor of church music and associate dean of the School of Church Music's academic division, was elected of executive vice president.

Gray, 55, has taught at Southwestern since 1966. He is a graduate of the

seminary, holding the master of church music and doctor of musical arts degrees.

The recommendation of seminary President Russell Dilday to elect Gray included a change in the school's bylaws eliminating the position of vice president for planning and research and replacing it with an executive vice president.

Dilday told trustees the executive vice president will "assist the president in the general operation of the

seminary and in coordinating the work of the school's four institutional divisions" — academic affairs, business affairs, public affairs, and student affairs.

Gray, who currently is heading Southwestern's self-study accreditation program, will assume his duties Jan. 1.

Trustees also approved a recommendation allowing an anonymous donor to set up a \$1 million trust that will provide an interest-only loan to the seminary. Income from the trust also could be donated to defray the interest cost. The money will be used to construct the Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library.

According to terms of the agreement, the loan will be forgiven at the donor's death.

Construction of the library is the first of a three-phase, \$5 million project for the School of Church Music. The other phases include renovation of Cowden Hall, which houses the school, and expansion of music education facilities.

The board's academic affairs committee approved a procedure for enlisting new faculty at the seminary

which was presented to the entire board for clarification.

According to the plan, the academic affairs committee chairman and a trustee living nearest the faculty candidate will be involved in the process of determining the candidate's ability to serve.

In other business, trustees promoted John Newport, vice president for academic affairs and provost and professor of philosophy of religion, to vice president for academic affairs and provost and distinguished professor of philosophy of religion.

### Hardin-Simmons given \$8,000,000

ABILENE, Texas (BP) — Hardin-Simmons University has received \$8,720,844, members of the Texas Baptist school's trustee and development boards learned Sept. 15.

The total included a \$3,588,726 gift from the estate of William Buel Irvin and Ollie "Jimmie" Camp Irvin and \$5,132,118 in cash and pledges from trustees and former trustees participating in the HSU Centennial Campaign.

## Education Commission votes funding divisions

(Continued from page 2)

schools will receive:

Blue Mountain — \$486,831; Clarke — \$159,733 (not including special allocations for Clarke given to MC); Mississippi College — \$1,716,060; and William Carey College — \$853,678.

With FTEs reported by the schools at 335 for BMC; 129 for Clarke; 2,895 for MC, and 1,253 for Carey; allocations per FTE by school will be \$1,453 per BMC student; \$1,229 per Clarke student (with the special funding it goes up to \$2,131 per student); \$593 per MC student; and \$681 per Carey student.

Capital funds allocations by school will be BMC — \$78,346; MC — \$308,865; and Carey — \$196,012.

During reports by the presidents of the colleges, Carey's interim president Jim Edwards told commissioners that he was offering a restatement of the 1988 fall FTE count. He revised it down to 1,085 from 1,299 as originally reported.

Besides the earlier announced travel study allocation "misstatement," said Edwards, "We knew the faculty getting graduate credit for the fall semester workshop was questionable at best." He said there were other situations where people earned legitimate credit, but enrolled at no charge. "It became clear that some other things had been done in previous years that in my opinion were not appropriate," he said.

He said that in August of last year there were some enrolled in one or two week or three weekend valid courses that were added to fall semester numbers. "I said we're not going to put those in," he said.

He said there were other problem areas including some summer term student hours being counted for fall enrollment.

"In some way," said Edwards, "our sister institutions need to be compensated."

Edwards said the cumulative deficit at Carey is approximately \$1.8 million, plus any recalculation for FTE misstatements. Edwards said the bank loan for Carey which would help consolidate debts "is continuing to move forward." A bank has been enlisted to serve as the lead bank in a loan agreement and others have agreed to participate in the loan. "This needs to come together because things have begun to be very tight financially," said Edwards. "All the bills have gotten older and the creditors have gotten tougher."

Edwards pointed to an increased enrollment this fall as a result of an aggressive recruitment program and faculty commitment.

Ron Kirkland, pastor of First Church, Batesville, was elected chairman of the commission for 1989-90. Bob McCord, a layman from Oxford, was elected vice chairman; and Jack Bennett, pastor of First Church, Ripley, was elected secretary.

## State programs nominated for ACTS awards Nov. 9

The Fourth Annual ACTS Awards will be held on Thursday Nov. 9, 1989, at the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission in Fort Worth and carried on the ACTS Network at 7 p.m. (CST).

Mississippi has again received nominations in a number of categories. They are:

### RELIGIOUS SERIES

"Broadmoor Worship" — Broadmoor Church, Jackson (ACTS of Jackson)

"The Sword" — Cable 6, Hattiesburg (Lebanon ACTS Board)

### MUSICAL OR THEATRICAL SERIES

"On Track" — First Church, Cleveland (ACTS or Cleveland, MS)

### HUMAN INTEREST SPECIAL

"Charlie's Fools" — First Church, Cleveland (ACTS on Cleveland, MS)

### EVENTS COVERAGE SPECIAL

"To Him Who is Able" — Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (Convention Highlights carried on ACTS to the stations in Mississippi.)

### CHRISTIAN MESSAGE

"Tracks" — First Church, Brandon (Rankin County ACTS Board)

### COMMERCIAL

"Subscribe Now!" — ACTS of Jackson, Jackson

### CABLE AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR

Lebanon ACTS Board, Hattiesburg

The hour-long television special will be taped on Thursday afternoon Nov. 9 in the studio at the ACTS Network and will feature many Mississippi people. Then the program will be aired on all 410 ACTS affiliates nationwide at 7 p.m. (CST). Affiliates are asked to clear this time and not preempt with local programming.

## Barney Padgett dies at 79

Barney E. Padgett, 79, Baptist minister, died at Magee General Hospital, Oct. 16.

Funeral services were held at Pine Grove Church at 2:30 p.m., Oct. 18, with Oliver Ladnier, Victor Johnson, and Glen Schilling officiating, assisted by Mrs. Thelma Winborne, organist. Burial was in Pine Grove cemetery.

Padgett, who was ordained by Pine Grove Church, Simpson Association, in 1932, served more than 50 years as pastor in Simpson, Smith, Covington, Jeff Davis, Marion, Attala, Yazoo, Claiborne, Copiah, and Lincoln counties, and in New Orleans. His last seven years of active ministry were from his home church, Pine Grove. He retired in 1983.

A former school teacher for 12 years, serving as bi-vocational pastor, the Smith County native received his education from Mendenhall AHS, Mississippi College, and Baptist Bible Institute, now New Orleans Seminary. Having expressed a desire to serve as a foreign missionary, he found that age restrictions in the 1940s prevented him from fulfilling this dream. However, he served in "one of the greatest mission fields," the city of New Orleans. There for 9½ years, he was active in missions through Valence Street Baptist Church, as well as chairman of the Missions Committee of New Orleans Baptist Association. In all of the churches he pastored, new goals were reached in missions giving throughout the year.

He was active in soul winning. The youngest he baptized was six years of age and the oldest was 92.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Ludie Padgett, Magee; son, Burnett, Picayune; two daughters, Marjorie Anne McGhee, Magee; Mary Jean Padgett, Clinton; two sisters; six grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

### Carey to have missions emphasis

William Carey College will hold Foreign Mission Emphasis Week Nov. 6-11 on the Hattiesburg campus. Freddie Womble, missionary-in-residence at Carey, will be the featured speaker.

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**DELUXE HOLY LAND TOUR —**  
Join Rev. Gary Bowlin and other Mississippi friends on his 11th pilgrimage to the Holy Land, departing December 26th, for 10 days, covering all sites; deluxe hotels and meals; \$1,398 roundtrip from New York; for information and brochure call 601-825-1043, or write 119 Tiffany Drive, Brandon, MS 39042.

# Mississippians in Japan . . .



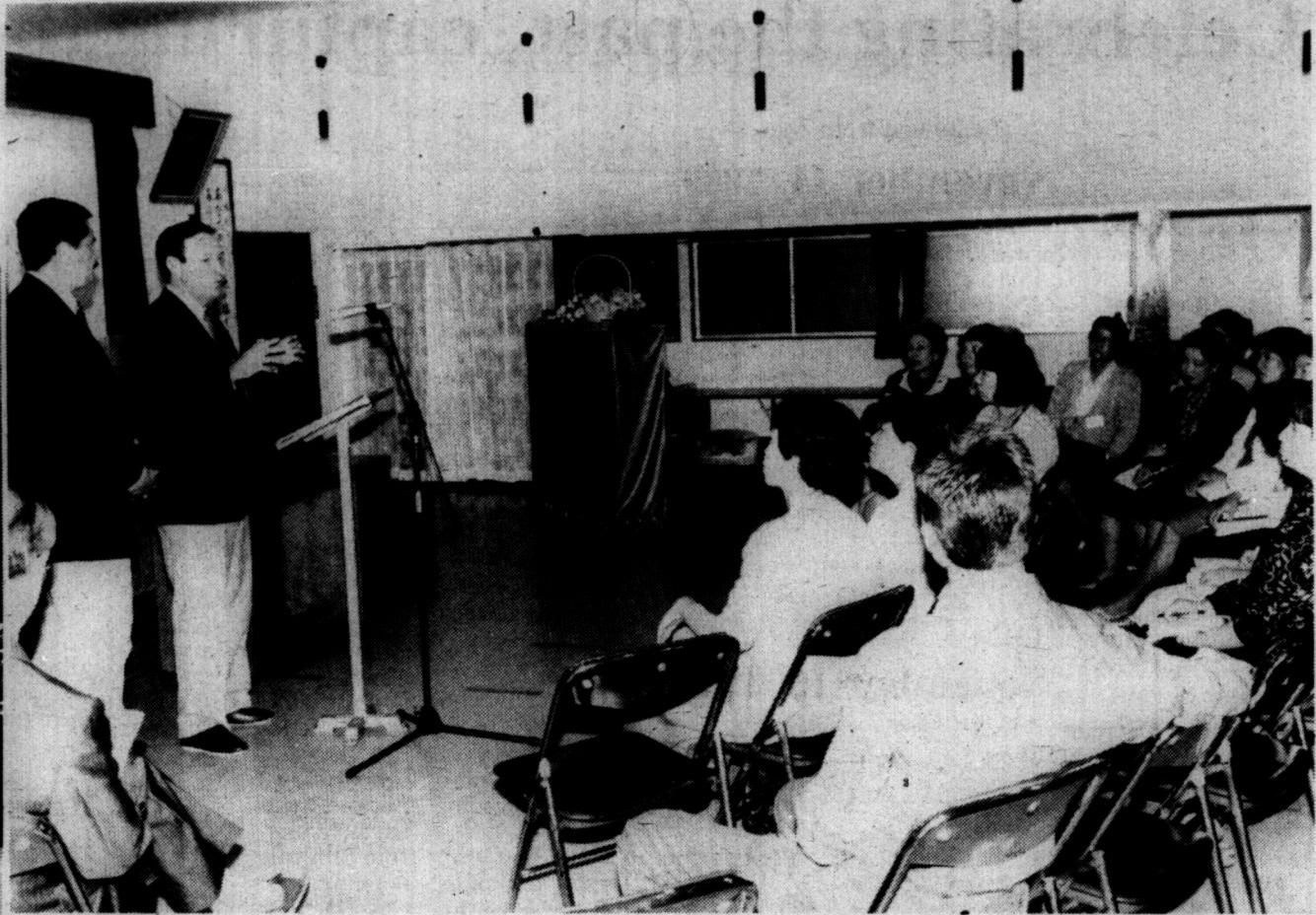
Steve Griffin, left, and Yvonne Boleware, center, receive a gift from Myogadoni Church in Tokyo, where they served during the crusade observing the 100th anniversary of Baptist work in Japan. The bells of the church's bell choir can be seen on the table.



Clifton Perkins, right, and Mrs. Perkins, second from left, are met in Tokyo by missionaries Charles and Mary Elizabeth Ray, at left and third from left, and two members of Zama Church, Kanagawa, where Ray is pastor. The Perkins were assigned to Zama Church. The Rays are from Mississippi.



Don Dobson, pastor of Collins Church, chats with two missionaries from Mississippi, the Tony Ludlows, and with Hiroshi Kajiki, a member of Oizumi Church, Tokyo, during a barbecue at Oimuzi Church. Kajiki works for the Japan Baptist mission. He has traveled extensively in Mississippi.



David Sellers, pastor of Collinsville Church, speaks to the Shimura church group through missionary Bill Walker. This was a get acquainted session.



Irene Martin of Harperville delivers the morning message through an interpreter at Tokiwadai Church in Tokyo on the final Sunday of the first group. The front of Italian marble is visible.



Greeting Mississippi Baptist visitors at the headquarters of the Japan Baptist Convention are, left to right, Osamu Matsukura, executive secretary; Akira Kimura, a layman who is vice-president; and Hiroshi Kajiki, who works for the Japan Baptist Mission and did much of the logistics work for the Mississippi visit. The visitors to the headquarters building were Paul Harrell, Mississippi Brotherhood director who was the leader of the first wave of Mississippi Baptists to Japan; Don McGregor, editor of the **Baptist Record**; and Steven Tondera of Huntsville, Ala.



Paul Miller, pastor of Mantee Church, preaches during the afternoon meeting of Hino mission in Tokyo.



Mrs. Yasuda presents special music at Hino. The bi-lingual Mrs. Yasuda once lived in Australia for three years. She stands in front of a sign welcoming Paul Miller and Marty Comer.

# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

## On the road to Dagomys

"You'll like Dagomys," said Nellie, Intourist guide at Sochi, renowned resort on the Russian riviera. We'd been complaining about disappointments in Moscow: "Our ballet plans at the Bolshoi were cancelled. Our circus plans were cancelled. Our afternoon tour was cancelled . . ."

"You know THEY can do anything," she reminded with a smile. She was a beauty, with light brown hair and green eyes, who wore a leather skirt, red sweater, white blouse, and pearls. Her English was superb.

For almost an hour our bus climbed into the Caucasian foothills; far below, the Black Sea remained visible. At Dagomys, the unpainted wooden tea house had handcarved shutters and eaves. When I stepped inside, I felt as if I'd stepped into a fairy tale. The room was decorated with wood carvings, lacquer miniatures, fine Vologda lace, and painted wooden dishes. Girls in embroidered dresses poured tea from a samovar while musicians played folk tunes on accordions and guitars. Outside, emerald slopes curved downward, in row after row of tea bush hedges.

I followed the example of those around me and spooned strawberry jam and pineapple guava into my tea instead of onto the thick slices of bread peppered with hazelnuts. Hmmmm . . .

This was billed as the world's northernmost tea plantation. Russians had learned about tea from China in the 17th century, but the tea leaf is sensitive to cold. Only along the warm stretches of the Black Sea coast had it found a second home, where climate and vegetation are similar to that of the Mediterranean. Production of tea had begun in the Dagomys area early in the 20th century; this had been organized as a state farm in 1947. Two thousand of the 10,000 who live in 20 nearby settlements work for the tea farm. At harvest time, pensioners, housewives, school children, and others also join in to help, for 30 kopecks per kilogram (100 kopecks equal one ruble. One ruble equals \$1.62 U.S.)

On the way back to the hotel at Sochi, Nellie told us that she is married to a dentist who works at the seaside sanatorium that Stalin used to frequent. He works six days a week, from 8 to 2 for the state and from 2 to 4 for himself.

"Over the past four years, there has been a big change in freedom to read anything," she said. "Now we can all read the newspapers — and they are more interesting to read — but now we

have no time to read them!"

"Tell us about funerals here," Lola Autry requested.

"I can tell you more about those in (Soviet) Georgia, where I was born," she said. "My husband was born in Russia. In Georgia, they keep the body about a week, they embalm it first — nine days at least. Someone stays near the body all the time, at the home, or at a cafe. Many people will come, eat, play chess. Sometimes they drink so much wine they forget why they are there and start singing. They will bring flowers to the funeral, or send beforehand. They will have music. The day of the funeral, the service will be announced in the newspaper. At the cemetery, 1,000 might gather for the burial. If the person is a believer, there will be a special kind of service."

"Are you a believer?" I asked.  
"No. Are you?"  
"Yes."

"You know, they taught us for a long time not to worship God," she said. "but now crime is high and morals are low. Now they say we need something to believe."

After a pause, she went on. "I was baptized (in the Russian Orthodox Church, I understand she meant) when I was 18, because my grandmother wanted me to be. She said, 'If you are not, then don't visit my grave.' So I was baptized, and I got a gold cross and a bracelet. Then when I had a son, I wanted him to be baptized, too. He asked what he'd get from it, and I told him, 'A gold cross and a bracelet.' My son and my husband were baptized at the same time. I told them, 'I don't know if there is a God, but baptism can't do any harm.'"

Wistfully she added, "I don't know if there is a God or not. How can you know?"

Lola asked her, "Would you like to have a Bible printed in Russian?"

"Oh, yes!" she answered, her face radiant. "They are impossible to find. On the black market they sell for 200 rubles" (\$324.00 U.S.) We gave her two New Testaments; she thanked us again and again.

"Read it before you get rich!" I whispered to her. She laughed, but later she told Lola, "I will read it. You can be sure I will read it."

And I have added Nellie to my prayer list, that she may have become a believer even before she reaches I John 5:13 — "These things have I written unto you . . . that ye may know . . . and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

## Thousands of Soviet Baptists immigrate to West Germany

By Mike Creswell

BAD HOMBURG, West Germany (BP) — World attention has focused on more than 52,000 East Germans who have fled through Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Austria to West Germany in recent months.

But nearly unnoticed are more than 100,000 Soviet immigrants — up to 25 percent of them Baptists — who will settle in West Germany legally this year.

The Soviets are among 300,000 to 400,000 Eastern Europeans expected to move to West Germany in 1989. Events in Europe have moved so rapidly in recent months that exact estimates of people leaving the East are not possible.

One German Baptist leader called

the current migration the largest movement of European Christians since the Protestant Reformation. It certainly is the largest since World War II disrupted millions of European lives.

By 1992, more than 100,000 Baptists from the Soviet Union are expected to be living in West Germany. Only 70,000 Baptists now attend all churches affiliated with the West German Baptist Union.

The situation is not new. Soviet citizens, including Baptists, began moving from the Soviet Union to West Germany in increasing numbers after 1974. The two governments agreed that Soviet citizens with family members in West Germany could move there.

Thursday, November 2, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## George Baptists feed hundreds

By Tim Nicholas

In the past year, a Baptist ministry in George County, where unemployment runs 18 to 20 percent, has provided more than 25,000 meals to those in need in the area. "The number of hungry people surprised us," said Roy Myers, pastor of Rocky Creek Church.

During its first year of existence, the George County Baptist Food Bank, operated by the Baptist Association there, more than 300 families, averaging four persons per family, were given a week's worth of groceries. At 21 meals per person in a week, the total is more than 25,000 meals in a year.

That also amounts to more than \$17,000 worth of groceries in that year, since each recipient family receives about \$55 worth of groceries.

The operation is run by one of two co-directors and four volunteers when open, which is three mornings a week. The directors pull their volunteers from a cadre of more than 80.

All of this comes from an association with 11 churches and one mission.

The ministry, which opened in September of 1988, was well planned out. "It was working on paper before we ever opened," said John Henry, pastor of Barton Church, Lucedale, and a member of the food bank council which is a committee of the association.

The group used a model in operation in Tupelo and had former Lee Association director of multi-family ministries Tim Welford and his wife Karen for a George County associational meeting to discuss the possibilities.

"We got real excited about it," said co-director Stella Ward, a member of First Church, Lucedale.

The group obtained a building from First Church, Lucedale, which pays for utilities, had it painted and fixed up, got the Home Mission Board to match \$1,000 given for startup money, and developed a system for obtaining food with no budget.

"Each church is asked to bring certain items — and they do it," said Henry. Vacation Bible School groups bring in food. A recent youth rally garnered 600 lbs of food.

And each church will have food bank day where adults and children tour the food bank to learn of its ministry.

Balanced meals are planned in the grocery sacks given. Since some of the food would be perishable, the Baptists have a voucher system where the recipients go to a local grocery store for such as cheese, milk, and meat. Full price is paid by the Baptists to the stores. The group is looking for a freezer so they can buy in bulk.



Debra Hancock and Stella Ward, co-directors of the George County Baptist Food Bank, stand in the bank's pantry.

The recipients are referred to the food bank by either a pastor or the welfare agency in the area. Since the system is designed for emergencies, recipients may only receive the food one time.

In addition to food, families receive Christian literature — Good News New Testaments, children's materials, Home Life, and Mature Living magazines. They also get follow up visits from local pastors. Most, said Pastor Myers, who is a food bank council member, assure the ministers of their relationship with the Lord and appear gracious and appreciative of the ministry and the visit.

"They're very open to someone sitting and talking," said Johnny Walker, pastor of First Church, Lucedale, who presents the gospel message as do the other ministers. If the food bank had not helped them, said Walker, "they would not have been as receptive."

The ministry is getting well known in the area. The county supervisors offered to turn over \$18,000 just to supervise an energy, food, and shelter system for the indigent. The Baptists turned them down. "There were too many stipulations," said Henry.

As the ministry matures, "we see other needs," said Henry. Co-director Debra Hancock, a member of Rocky Creek Church, said discussion has started concerning clothing, medical and toy ministries. Already two local physicians will treat without charge any child coming through the food bank. The group is planning a Christmas tree with gifts for children wrapped and labeled by the local GAs.

Stella Ward said a little boy visiting the food bank asked her, "Do you get paid for this?" She answered him "No, not in dollars and cents, but in joy and peace and happiness." These things come, she told him, "when we're doing what God wants us to do."

## Thousands of Soviet Baptists immigrate to West Germany

and help immigrants with paperwork and other adjustment problems. They also help organize Baptists into congregations.

West German Baptist leaders have asked the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for personnel and funds for increased Bible distribution among the immigrants.

Theologically, little divides the immigrant Baptists from West German Baptists. But other differences have emerged. "The immigrants largely do not accept our worship style," said Wieske.

Soviet Baptists bring with them a church polity that uses lay preachers, usually elected for life, instead of pastors. During worship services, members stand for prayer and com-

munions. Women cover their heads in services and do not wear slacks, jewelry, or makeup. Families do not practice birth control; discussing the topic is frowned upon. Some Soviet congregations excommunicate members who buy television sets.

"In Russia, these people fought tenaciously to keep their Germanic heritage alive. Now in West Germany they still tend to remain separate and unto themselves," said Johann Macher, one of the 15 immigrant ministry specialists who work at the Bramsche-Hespe Reception Center. To West German Baptists, he preaches acceptance of the newcomers.

Mike Creswell is a missionary journalist.

# Just for the Record



**Highland Church, Meridian,** had a note burning for its sanctuary, office suite, fellowship hall, and kitchen, on Oct. 1. The project cost was \$900,000 and the note was for \$500,000. Taking part in the ceremony, pictured, are Jim Brannon, pastor; members of the 1976 building committee, Lyle Corey, chairman; Jimmy Kemp, co-chairman; Virginia Bounds; Vernon Brandon; Beth Tinnin; Harmon Dawkins; Murphy Culpepper; A. D. Shirley; Buddy Morgan; Joe Dill; and C. W. Makamson.



**GAs of New Salem Church, Caledonia,** held their Missions Adventures Recognition Service, Sept. 24. The theme was "Here's Hope: Jesus Cares For You." Girls pictured are, first row, Lindsay Vaughn, Tracy Gilmer, Emily Dixon, Liza Criddle, Chana Criddle; second row, Nicloe Kilburn, Allison Vaughn, Casey Dixon, Mandy Stinson, Brandi Baucom, Lacey Hacker; third row, leaders are Eleanor Pendley, Ann Dowdle, Libby Dixon, and Kay Vaughn.

## Revival dates

**Victory Temple, Greenville (Washington):** Nov. 5-10; noon each day and 7 nightly; Harold T. Branch, former pastor of St. John, Corpus Christi, Tex., evangelist; Wanda Benford, Victory Temple, music; Eddie C. Jones Sr., pastor.

**Macdeonia, Meridian:** revival and homecoming; Nov. 10-12; Grant McElveen, Pelahatchie, pastor of Barefoot Springs Church, evangelist; services Fri. and Sat. nights at 7; Sun. at 11 a.m.; homecoming Sun. with a noon meal at the church and gospel singing in afternoon, but no evening service; Danny Moss, pastor.

**Green's Creek, Petal (Lebanon):** Nov. 5-9; services, 7 p.m. Bud Swindall, Sanderville, evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg, music; Jimmie Garrard Sr., pastor.

**Westside, Bruce (Calhoun):** Nov. 9-12; 7 each evening; 11 a.m., Sunday morning; W. Buford Usry, pastor, evangelist; E. P. Stegall, Westside, music.

**Bethany Church, Potts Camp (Marshall):** Nov. 10, 11, 12; to be led by a BSU team from Union University, Jackson, Tenn.; services 7 p.m. Fri. and Sat. and 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sun.; Steve Walter, evangelist; Laurie Scott, pianist; Blaine Deloach, fellowship; Alan Teel, music leader; Dana Cunningham, special music; Carl Teel, pastor.

**First, Shannon (Lee):** Nov. 5-8; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Earl Kelly, retired, MBCB, evangelist; Amelia Anglin, First, Shannon, music; Tommy Whaley, pastor.

**First, Ridgeland:** Nov. 5-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon-12:45 p.m.; Ken Alford, pastor; Morrison Heights, Clinton, evangelist; Mike Parks, minister of music, Morrison Heights, Clinton, music.

**First, Arkabutla (Northwest):** Nov. 10-12; 7:30 p.m., Fri., and Sat.; 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Sunday; Sam Simmons, Mid-America Seminary, evangelist.

## Revival results

**Holly, Corinth (Alcorn):** Sept. 24-26; James Travis, Blue Mountain, evangelist; Gary Crum, Corinth, music; one profession of faith and three rededications; Philip Cooper, pastor.

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**Baptist Student Union at Jones County Junior College** recently gave out information about its programs and drinks to about 3,000 students during registration. Pictured is Amy Cameron, BSU puppet chairperson. John Sumner is director.

"Ladies Only" Conference, will be held Nov. 3 and 4, at Byram Church, Byram. The schedule includes Friday, Nov. 3, 6:15-9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 4, 8:30-11:45 a.m. Speakers are Jan Cossitt, Linda Donnell, Ruth Glaze, Annette Hitt, Jenelle Montgomery, Carol Simmons, Katherine Webster, and Karen Yarborough. Pre-registration is \$3 (\$5 at the door). For more information call 372-5886.

## Mississippians get degrees from New Orleans Seminary

Persons with Mississippi connections who received degrees from New Orleans Seminary on May 20, 1989, in addition to those whose names have already been published, included the following:

Larry Rogers, Picayune, master of divinity, interim minister of music and youth at Liberty Church, Liberty; Robert Barr, Jackson, master of divinity, pastor of Dixon's Mills Church, Dixon Mills, Ala.; Hellon Ford Freeman, Petal, associate of divinity, with special emphasis in religious education, administrative assistant to the president of New Orleans Seminary; David Green, Columbus, master of divinity pastor at Broadmoor Church, Gulfport; Bill Hardin, Pontotoc, master of divinity, pastor at Ford's Creek Church, Poplarville; John D. Herring, Jackson, master

of religious education, minister of music and youth at Hebron Church, Bush, La.; Hans Hutchins, Raleigh, N.C., master of divinity, minister of social work at Central Church, New Orleans; Robert Calvin (Bobby) Jones from Cleveland, master of religious education with special emphasis in administration, minister of music at Broadmoor Church, Gulfport; and Murray R. Wilton, New Orleans, La., master of divinity, pastor at First Church, White Castle, La. (son of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Wilton of Long Beach, Miss.)

The most common languages for SBC mission work are Spanish, Portuguese, and French. Foreign Mission Board researchers identify as many as 10,800 ethnolinguistic (people) groups in the world.

## Homecomings

**Wiggins, Carthage (Leake):** Nov. 12; 10 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; Pearl Hill Boys, Carthage, guest singers; no night services; Carlton Jones, pastor.

**Pulaski (Scott):** Nov. 5; 10:30 a.m.; Aaron Lewis, Hernando, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall, noon; singing, 2 p.m.; Harvest Quartet, Forest, guest singers; no night services.

**Evansville, Coldwater (Northwest):** Nov. 5; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 12:15 p.m.; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; Ed Campbell, Baldwin, guest speaker; Eddie Campbell, music; Jerry Price, pastor.

**Jericho, Baldwyn (Union Co.):** Oct. 29; H. G. West, Jr., former pastor, guest speaker; Jimmy Welch, former pastor, guest preacher; L. Wayne Frederick, pastor.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Nov. 5     | Voter Awareness Day (CAC Emphasis)   |
| Nov. 5-11  | R.A. Week (SBC/BRO Emphasis)   |
| Nov. 6     | Area Secretaries Workshop; FBC, Grenada; 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CAPM)   |
| Nov. 7     | Prospect Cultivation Seminar; 3-9:30 p.m.; FBC, Batesville/FBC, Starkville/West Jackson Street BC, Tupelo/N. Greenwood BC, Greenwood/FBC, Clinton/Poplar Springs Dr. BC, Meridian/FBC, Brookhaven/FBC, Gulfport/Main Street BC, Hattiesburg (SS) |
| Nov. 10-11 | Area Secretaries Workshop; Convington-Jeff Davis Assn. Office; 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CAPM)   |
| Nov. 10-11 | Single Adult Fall Retreat; FBC, Laurel; 7 p.m., 10th-3 p.m., 11th (Fam. Min.-CT)   |
| Nov. 10-12 | GA Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 10th-12:30 p.m., 11th (WMU)  |
| Nov. 11    | R.A. Rally Day; Mississippi College (BRO)  |

## Moore announces retirement

**DALLAS (BP)** — W. Winfred Moore, 69, former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and two-time nominee for SBC president, announced he will retire at the end of this year as pastor of First Church, Amarillo, where he has been for 30 years.

He resigned recently as chairman of Baptists Committed to the SBC, a group that describes itself as "mainstream centrists," but he remains on the group's executive committee.

"I intend to remain active in the effort to return our convention to the place where we accept our diversity

and give support to our institutions and agencies," Moore said.

A former first vice president of the 14.8-million-member SBC, Moore was a nominee twice for the SBC presidency. In 1986, he lost to Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, by a vote of 21,201 to 17,898. The previous year, he was defeated by Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, by a vote of 24,452 to 19,795.

Moore was president of the 2.4-million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1983 to 1985. He is a former pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

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# Staff changes

Broadmoor Church, Jackson, has called Steve Street as minister of singles, effective Oct. 8. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He previously served as single adult minister at First Church, Charlotte, N.C.

Thomas J. Mims has been called as pastor by West Gulfport Church, Gulfport, effective Aug. 6. He is a native of Miami, Fla., and a student at William Carey College. His previous place of service was Gulf Coast Rescue Mission and he has been doing evangelistic work for 14 years.

Harmony Church, Brookhaven, has called Charles Guy of McComb as pastor, effective Oct. 8. His previous place of service was Fellowship Church, Mathiston. A native of Tyvern, he received his education at William Carey and New Orleans Seminary.

Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, has called James King as minister of education, effective May 15. He retired as pastor after 18 years at Trinity Church, Wilmer, Ala. King received his education at University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary. George Aultman is pastor.

First Church, Flowood, has called Lee Ann Harrison as minister of youth, effective Oct. 8. A native of Forest, she previously served at Hillsboro Church. She is a senior at Mississippi College.

Immanuel Church, Natchez, has called W. H. "Dee" DeBold of Ligonier, Penn., as pastor, effective Oct. 22. His previous place was Bowman Church, Bowman, Ga. A native of Thomasville, Ga., he received his education at University of Georgia and is now a student at Mid-America Seminary.

DeBold

Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, has called Dale Thompson as minister of music, effective Aug. 15. A native of Alabama, he previously served at First, Lumberton, and received his education at Oklahoma Baptist University. George Aultman is pastor.

Garland Eaves resigned Pleasant Grove Church, Laurel, as pastor, effective Nov. 12. He is available for supply, interim, and pastorate. His new address is Rt. 2, Box 237, Eupora, MS 39744, and phone number is 258-7842.

Spring Hill Church, Marshall Association, has called Lee C. Powell of Memphis as minister of youth, effective Oct. 22. His previous place was Bowman Church, Bowman, Ga. A native of Thomasville, Ga., he received his education at University of Georgia and is now a student at Mid-America Seminary.

First Church, Mt. Olive, has called Marvin Miller of Hattiesburg, as minister of music and youth, effective Oct. 15. His previous place of service was Pleasant Grove Church, Laurel. He is a sophomore at Jones County Junior College.

Baggett

Belden Church, Belden, has called Don Baggett of New Albany as pastor, effective Sept. 3. A native of Oxford, he received his education at Blue Mountain College, and is currently enrolled in the Monday Program of New Orleans Seminary.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Thursday, November 2, 1989

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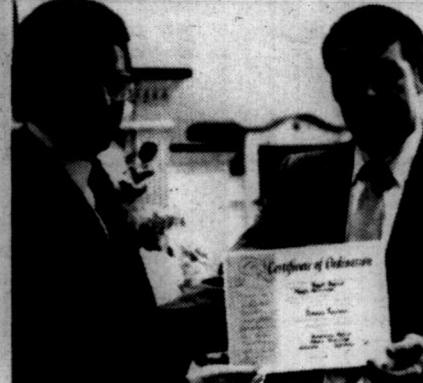
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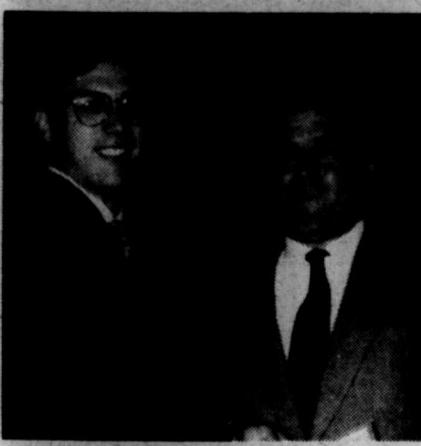
## Names in the news



First Church, Lexington, recently ordained Virgil King III as deacon. Four generations of Virgil Kings were present at the ordination, pictured, they are, Virgil King Sr. (left); Virgil King Jr. (right), who has served as deacon chairman last year and rotating off this year after serving three years; Virgil King III, (center) is on the second team going to Japan for crusades; and Virgil King IV (in front) was baptized a few weeks ago. Michael O'Brien is pastor.



Meadowood Church, Amory, ordained Dempsey Rowland to the gospel ministry on Sept. 17. Rowland is now pastor of Egypt Church in Chickasaw County. Pictured are Hal Bates (left) pastor, and Rowland (right).



Lee Yancey was licensed to the gospel ministry by First Church, Quitman, Sunday morning, Oct. 8. He is minister of youth at Calvary Church, Jackson, and is a student at Mississippi College. Pictured with Lee is his father, Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Quitman, presenting the Certificate of License authorized by the congregation and a Bible as a memorial of the occasion.

NASHVILLE — Mississippi native Don Rogers, a 26-year employee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named a recipient of the Career of Excellence award.

Rogers, a graduate of East Central Junior College, Decatur, and the University of Mississippi, is the coordinator of advertising and sales promotion in the Board's Holman Division.

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# Misunderstandings about Christ's return

By R. Raymond Lloyd

II Thessalonians 2:1-13, 15

The necessity of this letter to the Thessalonians is dealt with in this chapter: namely, their false conceptions about the return of Christ. Barclay calls this "one of the most difficult passages in the whole New Testament," and rightly so, for Paul assumes they are knowledgeable about certain facets of the Lord's return, and does not deal with them, and also he uses eschatological terminology which may have been clearly understood by his readers, but are both strange and obscure to us.

The matter of deception (2:1-12) Paul has dealt with the return of Christ in his first letter (4:13-5:11), and rather briefly in the first chapter in this letter, but confusion prevailed. Apparently some had become quite "shaken in mind" (agitate; like a sea being tossed in a storm; hence, mentally unbalanced), and "troubled" (a continuing state of nervous frenzy) by false teachings. He gives three possible sources of this heresy: "spirit" (something supernatural); "word" (private conversation or preaching); and "letter" (apparently a forged document in Paul's name). Whatever the source, the Thessalonians had been led to believe that the Day of the Lord had already



Lloyd

## BIBLE BOOK

come. Therefore they and their deceased loved ones had missed the event. No wonder they were agitated and frenzied. We would be, too!

The man of lawlessness (2:3-10a) Paul emphatically states that they have been deceived, and then proceeds to tell them that certain things had to occur before the Lord's return. There will be a "falling away," a growing rebellion, probably climaxing in Satan's "one last despairing effort" against God. (Rev. 19:19-20). In addition, the "man of sin" shall be revealed (man of lawlessness in some Greek manuscripts, but meaning is the same). The identification of such a person is unclear. The presence of the article "the" indicates a particular person, but it is a person who is yet to be revealed. While it is impossible to positively identify the figure, the kind of person he is to be is clearly indicated: "son of perdition" (destined to be destroyed); "opposes" from the word "adversary"; "exalts himself;" "against every so-called god or object of worship;" "he as God sitteth in the temple" (referring to the mercy seat where the invisible presence of God dwelt in the Holy of Holies); "showing himself to be God" (claiming supreme deity for himself). Paul's language here may be supplied by the self-deification of Caligula as Roman emperor. While Paul does not use the term Antichrist, as does John (I John 2:18), he is clearly

referring to such a person — evil incarnate, the complete antithesis of God.

Paul had obviously given these Thessalonians much greater detail (vs. 5), and they knew what was holding back this man of sin. We don't, and are left to speculation (the Roman Empire; any government and those who govern; the Holy Spirit, the proclamation of the Gospel). One should note the concern of Paul is not the identification, but that God overrules all of human history, and the working out of his ultimate purpose is on his timetable ("in his time" — vs. 6).

The remaining portion of this section deals with the ultimate triumph of God. When the lawless one is revealed (vs. 8a), the Lord at his coming will "consume" and "destroy" (make useless, or unworkable). Here is a marvelous picture of how by his mere breath Christ will render inoperable this arch-enemy of God.

Verses 9-10 further describe the devious and deceitful skills of Satan to mislead and destroy. Words used to describe the miracles of Jesus, and therefore true, are here used of the activity of the lawless one, and are used in a lying fashion for the purpose of deceiving and destroying.

Summary: There is a force of evil in this world rebelling against God. It has been restrained. At a time determined by God, that restraining power will be removed by God, and the man of sin, energized by Satan, will appear. "He will deceive men who have refused the truth of the gospel . . . He will defy all

semblance of deity and divine worship, taking his seat in God's temple, seeking to replace God, and will proclaim himself to be God. When he shall have reached this extremity of lawlessness toward God, Christ will appear to consume him and render inoperative his work — and this by the breath of Christ's mouth!" (Hobbs).

The manner of delusion (2:11-12) Those being deceived are ones who "did not receive the love of truth." They chose falsehood and as a result are separated from God. The phrase "God shall send them strong delusion" is the same truth as Paul expressed in Romans 1:24, 26, 28: "God gave them up . . ." He simply gives them over to the evil they have deliberately chosen. They rush headlong to their own destruction. "The beginning of sin is to forsake God, the end of sin is to be God-forsaken" (Hobbs). Those who obstinately refused the truth and found pleasure in unrighteousness, will experience the final punishment of God — condemnation!

One constantly needs to be on guard against false teachings whether of the Lord's return or any other issue. Rejection of truth is serious business. God is in absolute control and when one rejects God's way, his judgment is final and complete. This passage should call us not to be concerned so much about future details of the Lord's return, as the necessity of living today by the truths of God's word.

Raymond Lloyd is pastor, First, Starkville.

## The work of missions — all can have a part

### LIFE AND WORK

missions call. Four biblical passages outline the work of missions.

The focal point of missions is the work of the missionary, the one sent to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Missions and evangelism are synonymous when the task of missions is defined. In Matthew 9:35-38, Jesus underscores the importance of the evangelistic work of the missions task. Jesus identified with the missionary tasks of "teaching . . . preaching . . . and healing" (v. 35). In response to the "multitudes . . . having no shepherd," Jesus challenged the disciples to pray for more workers in the harvest ministry of missions. We must not forget that the need for harvester (missionaries out in the fields) is still critical today. We may give and pray, but unless we are going the job will not be done. The primary work of missions is telling people about Jesus!

Another facet of the work of missions is sending out missionaries. What a joy and privilege, even a responsibility, to obey the Lord (v. 2a), to share in the world missions task by being the

church from which a missionary is sent. Out of their faithful service and an atmosphere of prayer and fasting, God called the Antioch Christians to send Barnabas and Saul on their missionary journey. The laying on of hands (v. 3) symbolized not only the church's recognition of God's call and claim on the two men's lives, but also the church's part in sending and supporting. Our prayer should be that God will call out some of our church members to be missionaries. Our willingness to share our "sons and daughters" for Christ enables us to be a part of the work of missions.

In 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, Paul sets forth another aspect of the work of missions. We can, and we must, pray for missions. The challenge of our text is to pray for power ("that the word of the Lord may have free course") and protection ("to be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men") for those who serve as missionaries. In Ephesians 6:19, Paul, in a similar request, asked for prayer that he might "open (his) mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel." Our praying is vital to the cause of missions. We would do well for the work of missions to pray more, and more, and then again, more!

When William Carey was preparing to go to India, he reminded his colleagues, "I will venture to go down, but remember that you must hold the ropes." A vital part of the work of missions is supporting financially those who go. The Church in Acts 13:2-3 had the privilege and responsibility to send Paul and Barnabas on their missionary assignment. Our sending carries the promise of support. We "hold the ropes" for missions at home and abroad when we pray and when we give. In 3 John 5-8, the call of monetary support for missions is affirmed.

Noting the need to show love to the traveling Christian or stranger (vv. 5-6), John identifies the traveling missionary with the phrase, "for his name's sake they went forth," speaking of one who is traveling with the gospel message. Giving to missions is certainly a part of the work of missions.

Everyone can have a part in doing the work of missions. Some go. Others are called to let go and send. All are called to pray and give. We are left with the question, "What am I doing in the work of missions?"

Randall Von Kanel is pastor, First, Hattiesburg.

## Jesus Christ provides redemption

By Billy R. Williams

Revelation 5:1-12

This lesson brings a four session unit from the book of Revelation with particular focus this Sunday on the redemption which Jesus Christ provides God's people. Chapter five will be considered by giving attention to the Problem (vs. 1-4), the Person (vs. 5-7), and family, the Praise (vs. 8-14).

In verses 1-4, John, in the midst of an awe-inspiring vision of God upon his throne, was made aware of a tremendous problem. A completely filled scroll in the right hand of God had

caught his attention. There are different views about the scroll and its content. It has been identified as the Lamb's Book of Life, the Old Testament, God's redemptive plan, and several others. However, since John had been called to see things to come (4:1), it seems best to accept this scroll as prophecy of end events which tells about salvation for God's people and judgement for the wicked. However, the problem was that neither John nor anyone else could see what was written, for the scroll was thoroughly

### UNIFORM

sealed (sealed with seven seals, vs. 1).

An angel, strong enough to be heard all over creation shouted out a challenge for anyone anywhere to come and open the scroll if he were worthy (vs. 2). That was the introduction to an even greater aspect of the problem, for no one was found worthy to open the scroll (vs. 3). One writer stated no angel in heaven, no saintly man on earth, no prophet in the realm of the departed was sufficient for this. John's reaction was one of extreme sorrow as he wept (vs. 4). It was not just disappointment over unrevealed events. For John it was as if sin, suffering, and Satan must go on forever. "Right forever on the scaffold. Wrong forever on the throne."

From the consideration of the problem the scene shifted to the presentation of a Person — Jesus Christ, the only one worthy to open the scroll. (vs. 5-7). An elder demanded that John stop weeping because there was one worthy to open the scroll (vs. 5). He was identified as the Lion of Judah and the root of David, terms with strong messianic connotations. He was of Judah,

the royal tribe of Israel, and he was the lion of Judah, the most powerful and noble one belonging to that tribe. Likewise he was a descendant of David (root or branch of David). John was assured that this mighty Messiah had already won a great victory (hath prevailed) thus making him worthy to open the scroll (vs. 5).

As John looked to see the King Messiah he saw instead the striking figure of a "little" Lamb (vs. 6). The remarkable thing was that the Lamb bore the marks of having been slain and yet he lived. The Lion of Judah who will set up the Kingdom at His Second Coming will be able to do so because he was the Lamb slain.

Paradoxically, the "little" lamb had seven horns which denote complete power. It is not the power of force but rather the power of redeeming, sacrificial love — the power of the cross. The Lamb also had seven eyes which suggest that nothing can be hidden from him. John adds that the eyes are "the seven spirits of God" which is probably a symbolic reference to the Holy Spirit (vs. 6). The Lamb then took the scroll from the right hand of the One on the throne (vs. 7). This action indicated that God authorized Christ, the Lamb, to open the seven-sealed scroll and to execute the plans found within.

The act of the Lamb taking the scroll from

the hand of God was a signal for a great chorus of Praise to begin (vs. 8-14). The living creatures and the 24 elders prostrated themselves in worship before the Lamb. The harps denoted worship and the golden bowl of incense symbolized the prayers of Christians. This heavenly group sang a "new song" which spoke of the worthiness of the Lamb due to his redeeming death (vs. 9). The redemption which he wrought was for all men. His redeeming work has established for the saved a new position as kings and priests who reign with him (vs. 10-11). Some see this as a reference to the millennium kingdom.

To the praise of the elders and living creatures, innumerable angels added their praise (vs. 11). They too emphasized Christ's redeeming death by using seven expressions to indicate the wonder of the Lamb. The first four are qualities He possesses, the last three express the attitude of men to him (vs. 12). Then the whole of creation joined in the song of praise to the One on the throne and to the Lamb (vs. 13). Their song represented the fervent outpouring of hearts full of praise for all that God has done through the Lamb. The chapter fittingly ends with an expression of praise, "Amen" and an act of worship (vs. 14). "Amen."

Williams is pastor, First, Gautier.

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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(To be continued)

# SCRAPBOOK

## A safe place

Many people have said:

"I'm looking for a safe place to live and work."  
Does such a place exist?  
Where can it be found?

Many times we have heard it said that the will of God is the safest place for a Christian.  
Is it true?

No, not always. But it is the right place for a Christian to be.

Really does a Christian have the right always to ask for a safe place?  
Jesus came to the earth; not to do his own will but his Father's.

It wasn't the safest place for him because it led him to the cross and death.

It wasn't the safest place, but it is what he came to do, and because he did, we now have redemption and eternal salvation.

Because of what Jesus has done for us, his will for us is right and the risk in any danger is worth whatever it may cost us because of the results it will bring.

—Charles W. Whitten  
Clinton

### Walk and hold my hand

Walk beside me, precious Jesus,  
Take my hand and hold it tight  
Lest the tempest in the valley  
Sweep me into darkest night.

Walk with me upon the mountain,  
Hold my hand lest I should fall,  
For the way that lies before me  
Looks so rugged, steep, and tall.

Walk with me through troubled waters  
Hold my hand and calm my soul;  
Let me hold thy staff and rod  
While the billows round me roll.

Walk with me in rays of sunshine  
Hold my hand in joys sublime;  
May the beauty of thy presence  
Anchor me in love divine.

Walk with me in sun or shadow  
Hold my hand forevermore,  
Grasp it specially tight, dear Lord,  
When I cross to heaven's shore.

—Alma F. Isbell  
Amory

(The writer died in a car accident April 14, 1989.)

## Laurel women to hear Janice Lotz on World Day of Prayer Nov. 5

The WMU of Jones County Baptist Association and the women of the National Baptist Convention in the Laurel area will observe the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer in a joint service at 2 p.m., Nov. 5, at St. Elmo Baptist Church, 512 South 6th Ave., Laurel.

This day of prayer is an annual observance sponsored by the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance. This year's theme is "God's Command: Thirst for Righteousness."

Janet Lotz, Annandale, Va., general secretary, Baptist World Alliance, will bring greetings from the BWA Women's Department. His wife, Janice, daughter of Mrs. Paul Robinson and the late Paul Robinson of Ellisville, will be the featured speaker.

Mrs. Lotz, mother of five, is a graduate of MUW and of Southern

Seminary. She was a missionary journeyman in Nigeria and a missionary in Europe before marrying Lotz.

The planning committee for the Day of Prayer in Laurel includes Etie Godard, chairman; Alma Barnes, co-chairman; Marjorie Williams, music; Elaine Sims, arrangements; and Mildred Flowers, program format.

Mayor Henry Bucklew of Laurel will bring greetings, as well as Johnny Anderson, pastor of St. Elmo; Alma Barnes, president, East Mississippi State Baptist Women Auxiliary; Richard Brogan, consultant, Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB; and Dell Scoper, WMU director, Jones County Association.

## HMB adopts change to assist churches in rural associations

ATLANTA (BP) — With an appeal from Larry Lewis to evangelize America "from the cities to the silos," trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board endorsed a new plan to assist three-fourths of the denomination's associations in strategy planning.

At their fall meeting, trustees approved changing the name of the rural-urban missions department to the town and country missions department. HMB President Lewis said the name change signals a new approach in helping Baptist associations in areas with populations of less than 10,000 people.

In other action, the board elected Margrette Stevenson as vice president in charge of the services section, responded to motions referred from the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, adopted a \$76.8 million budget for 1990, further refined the agency's organizational structure, and approved 19 people for missionary service.

In addition to the town-and-country name change, the HMB associational missions division will launch a new

Town and Country Thrust that will do for smaller associations what Metro Thrust has done for metropolitan associations, Lewis said.

Town and Country Thrust will be a joint strategy planning process between the board, state conventions, and district associations.

Said Lewis, "The development of Town and Country Thrust means that within the next decade every association in the nation will have an opportunity to develop grassroots mission strategy in cooperation with the Home Mission Board and state convention."

In his speech to trustees, Lewis also clarified the board's approach to bivocational ministries. At the last full meeting of trustees, the position of national consultant for bivocational ministries, held by Dale Holloway of Mississippi, was among 28 positions deleted in a cost-cutting move.

Instead of having one consultant responsible for bivocational work nationwide, the board will move toward placing three to six regional consultants across the country, he explained.

### Minister's son dies in football practice at 18

Marcus Samuel Jones, 18, died on Sept. 18, at Samford University in Birmingham. He collapsed and died after football practice, from what was determined to be an enlarged heart.

Mark was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jones of Pascagoula. His father has pastored many churches in Mississippi including Unity (Greene); Moselle; Foxworth; and Unity, Pascagoula.

Mark was a 1989 graduate of Pascagoula High School and was a student at Samford University, where he was a member of the varsity football team. He was a licensed Southern Baptist minister and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Calvary Baptist Church in Pascagoula.

He was the 1989 scholar-athlete award recipient and at that time was inducted into the National High School Football Hall of Fame. He was a member of the 1987 Five-A Mississippi State Championship Football Team at Pascagoula High School. He was a panelist and student representative for "Bridge the Gap" seminar, a drug awareness program sponsored by the attorney general's office.

He is survived by his parents; two sisters, Jenny and Suzanne, both of Pascagoula; his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Fisher, Pascagoula; his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Colon Jones of Northport, Ala.

### Seelig to retire from Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — John Seelig, vice president for public affairs at Southwestern Seminary will retire Jan. 31, 1990, after 30 years of service.

During his tenure at Southwestern, Seelig, who turns 65 in December, has helped raise more than \$65 million for the school while directing the seminary's public relations/development program.

### Devotional

## Follow me

By Russell Bush, Jr.

The most frequently used words in the invitations of Jesus are these: "Follow Me." It is interesting to note the additional meanings of these words as they are progressively used.



The first recorded use of these words is found in John 1:43. His invitation to Philip was simply, "Follow Me." After his initial call to Peter, Andrew, James and John, He uses these words with additional meaning. He says to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." He will later give this invitation to all men with still more meaning. He says, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

All religious leaders have called upon men to follow them and their teachings. Each leader has had many followers. The question arises, "How far can you follow them?" I suggest that you can only follow them as far as they can go. So far as the available evidence is concerned, they have resurrections.

It is interesting to note that the last time Jesus issued the invitation was when he had gone beyond the grave and said to Peter that they will kill you, but you need not stop there, for I did not. I came through, "Follow Me."

Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Bush is pastor, Main Street, Hattiesburg.



## Book reviews

**COMING HOME: A DEVOTIONAL COMMENTARY ON ISAIAH 40-55;** FRED M. WOOD; Nashville; Broadman Press; 1987; Paper; 168 pp.

Fred M. Wood is a prolific writer who has a gift for lively exposition of Scripture. In *Coming Home* he explores Isaiah 40-55 with 10 chapters, using catchy titles such as "Two Coins in the Fountain," "A Tale of Two Cities," and "Nevermore to Roam."

Wood's limitation to chapters 40-55 does not necessarily imply a view of separate authors of Isaiah. Wood sees these chapters as a unit but considers the issue of various authors of the prophecy less important than conveying the prophet's message to God's people.

He offers an outline for each section with subpoints: explains technical difficulties in the text; and sprinkles in illustrations, especially his favorite type of illustration: short poems. However, *Coming Home* is not a series of 10 sermons. It is a popular commentary pollinated with sermon seeds waiting to be planted and watered by the preacher-reader.

*Coming Home* is a wonderful aid for Bible preachers and teachers who want the scripture to come alive for God's people. — Reviewed by Bob Rogers, pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster

**THE WORKING MOTHER'S GUIDE TO SANITY;** Elsa Houtz; Harvest House.

The author has been a working mother since 1977. She has spent most of her career in the fields of advertising and public relations. A native of Rockford, Ill., she currently lives with her husband and son in St. Petersburg, Fla., and is the public relations manager for a community service agency.

The book addresses a subject of interest today — the working mother. It deals with every area of life with which a working mother deals. It also presents some helpful suggestions for self-improvement. It would be helpful reading for all working moms. — Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor, Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

**THE DELICATE ART OF DANCING WITH PORCUPINES;** Bob Phillips; Regal Books.

The author is a licensed marriage, family, and child counselor. He is

popular conference and retreat speaker. He is a best-selling author of more than 20 books.

I would purchase this book for the title alone! It is catching. The subtitle explains the context of the book — "Learning to Appreciate the Finer Points of Others."

The author describes four different social styles and how an individual who falls into one particular style reacts under various conditions.

These four descriptions were interesting to me. They were also revealing. They helped me to understand myself more clearly as well as other people with whom I have contact on a regular basis.

This is an excellent book! I enthusiastically recommend it to anyone who works with people. — Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor, Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

Ninety five percent of all Southern Baptist Christian workers (including preachers) stay in the United States where approximately 5 percent of the world's 5 billion people live.

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